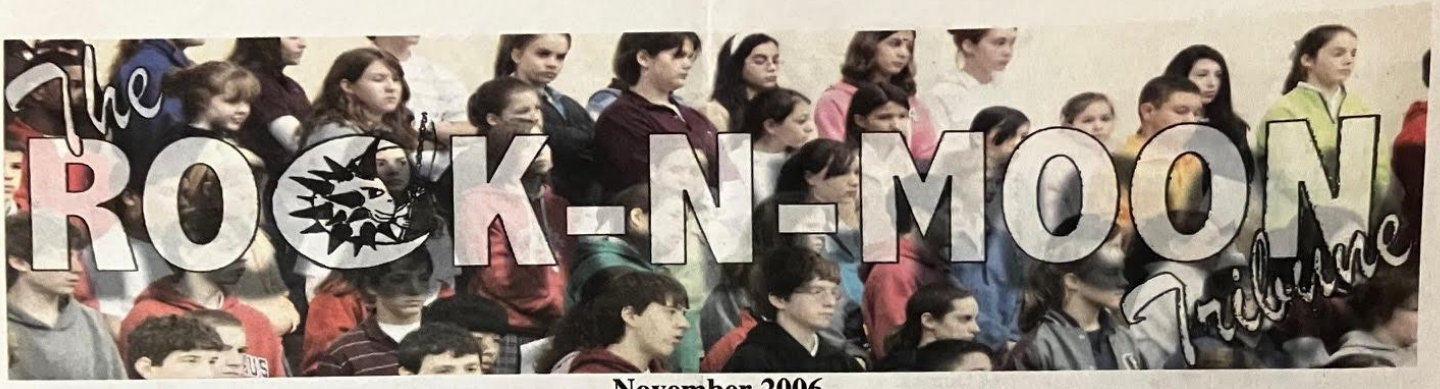


November 2006

# A New Tradition of St. Stanislaus Day Festivities Begins at SSC

By: Andre Romain

On Wednesday November 8, the SSC community was expecting the upcoming Monday to be a day of the traditional and by now repetitive explanation of the life of our patron, St. Stanislaus. Yet this year, Mr. France, Mrs. Lafontaine, and other staff members had a different idea. Instead of just doing an hour long presentation, SSC had a day of reflection and recreation—a day to take time off and celebrate the man after whom our school is named and modeled.

The day began with an inspirational speech by an ex-religion teacher and now Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry, Bragg Moore. He began with a brief summary on Stanislaus and then moved on to tell us a "wise tale." While the fable did have an underlying meaning behind it, he did it in a comedic way which caught the attention of the school. His speech was a bit brief, but that did not hinder its significance.

**Mr. Ken France, Campus Minister, and senior Matthew Vollenweider man the press box at the start of the Senior versus Faculty football game on November 13th**

Afterwards, students assembled into prayer groups and talked about Stanislaus Kostka and how his life story applied to them personally. We then came together as a community and attended a mass, celebrated by Father Cuddy, in which we once again remembered the life of St. Stanislaus and reflected on his significance.

At our hour long lunch, we were treated to some traditional American food and music performed by some SSC seniors. We were then shown a movie to continue the day. The underclassmen assembled in the Blaize Gym to watch *October Sky* while the upperclassmen gathered in the resource center to view *Simon Birch*.

The day concluded with the senior/faculty flag football game, which was played at the stadium in front of the entire student body. It was the perfect ending to an excellent day—except for the final score. We are still debating that 20-20 tie,but it is the first time in a great many years the faculty did not defeat the senior class.

It was a day the entire school enjoyed. The students liked a day away from the books—and away from uniforms—while the faculty was probably happy not to have to lecture on a Monday. The important part of it, though, is that everyone here appreciated the day and honored it more. When I went to the senior retreat, I could see that my fellow seniors respected the class more, and so did I, and I am sure that the students have more respect for November 13th and what it represents.

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# Student Life

## Stressing Over the ACT? Here are Some Helpful Hints!

By: Amy Gemelli

Most high school students cringe when they think about the ACT or SAT. As much as I would like to tell you that it does not matter what score you make, the truth is higher scores will help you be admitted to the college of your choice and grant you the opportunity to receive great scholarships. Now, I understand this can put a ridiculous amount of stress on a student. When taking the test, however, the most important thing to remember is the fact that you have to relax. So, to help you ease the stress, I did some research and interviewed Mr. Gemelli for some helpful tips and advice about taking the test.

Some students believe they should start taking the ACT the second they hit freshmen year. According to Mr. Gemelli, however, it is good to start taking the test after you have had certain math courses, such as Algebra I and Geometry, which is usually by the end of your sophomore year. Otherwise, you will most likely be disappointed in your scores and become intimidated.

You are probably wondering whether you should take the writing section, what scores are required for the colleges you are considering, or if you need to take the SAT as well. There is a simple way to find the answers to all these questions. Just visit act.org or college websites. ACT lists what each college requires in terms of tests and scores.

When is the last time you can take the test before college? What seniors need to know is some college scholarships require you to have your desired score by the October test in order to meet scholarship application deadlines. Other colleges, however, will raise your scholarship money as your score goes up, so you may have the rest of year to improve. Take note of this when researching the many different scholarships out there!

The best way to raise your scores is to practice. Keep taking the test. Do not get discouraged! ACT.org has free sample tests and questions that you can download, and Mr. Gemelli offers an ACT prep course. You can also pay to have your test questions and responses sent to you for the December, April, and June tests. Generally, your scores will go up as you take more classes and mature.

The next test dates are December 9th and February 10th, so go register online and get to work!

It may have cost me $100 dollars, but I weaseled some quick tips for each section from Mr. Gemelli:

**English**: The shortest, most concise answer that is grammatically correct is usually the correct answer.

**Math**: Try not to use a calculator on the first 30 problems. Most problems on the test are simpler then they appear and can be done in your head.

**Reading**: Underline key words in the question stems before you read the passages and then underline those words as you come across them to help you answer the questions faster.

**Science Reasoning**: Read all information carefully and make sure you understand what the charts and graphs are showing.


## The Rock-N-Moon Tribune

Established monthly as The Rock-N-Moon Tribune Nov. 9, 2005. Formerly The Rock-A-Chaw, founded October 1917, and the Maroon Moon Tribune, founded November 1974. The Rock-N-Moon Tribune is the official student newspaper of St. Stanislaus College and Our Lady Academy, 304 South Beach Blvd., Bay St. Louis, MS 39520; Phone 228-467-9057; FAX 228-466-2972. The paper is printed annually during the academic year.

| | | |
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| **Photographer** | Bro. Charles Schilling | |
| **Advisor** | Mrs. Hollie McCollister & Mrs. Anna Kalom | |


## The Column of Polls

By: Sarah Mirandy and Anna Webster

**Halloween Costumes Poll**

We tallied 51.5% of the students at OLA about what Halloween costume they preferred this year. They were put into these percentages:

Witches—23%
Scream—19%
Ghost—15%
School Girls—16%
Cats—12%
Other—15%

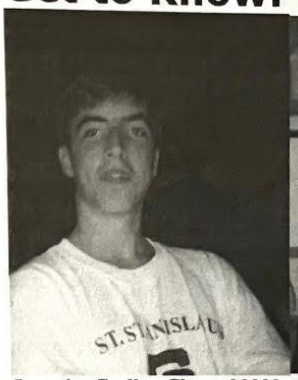
**Music Poll**

We asked ninety-one people about their favorite types of music. The results are as follows:

Rap—25%
Rock—24%
Metal—15%
Pop—12%
Country—11%
Techno—5%
Dance—3%
Emotional—3%
Jazz—2%

# News/Sports

## Get to Know: The Coelhos



Joaquim Coelho, Class of 2008

Mariana Coelho, Class of 2010

Name: Mariana Silva Amado Ferreira Coelho (a.k.a. Mariana Coelho)
*Class: Our Lady Academy Class of 2010*
*Birthday: 11 February 1992 (Age: 14)*
Food: She will eat basically anything but broccoli.
Music: She listens to pretty much everything; however, she especially likes the song "Mr. Brightside" by The Killers.
Reading: Her favorite book is *1984* by George Orwell.
Sports: She is on the junior varsity soccer team at OLA. She will also be a Crescent track star in the spring.

Mariana Coelho was born in California on February 11, 1992. A year later, she and her family moved to her parents' home, Portugal. When Mariana was in the third grade, her dad's job led the family to La Spezia in the north of Italy. This year, Mariana's dad's job brought the family back to the United States.

Mariana is a very interesting and easygoing person, who is fluent in Italian and Portuguese. So far, Mariana likes living in Mississippi, but she does miss Italy.

She has two amazing OLA big sisters, Morgan Ladner and Andreia Domingos, who are helping her grow more accustomed to OLA and Mississippi and helping her have fun in her new home.

Full Name: Joaquim Poole da costa Ferriera Coalho
Age & grade: 16 years old, SSC Junior
Previous residence: La Spezia, Italy (last 5 years), Colares, Portugal.
Current residence: Diamondhead, MS
Birthplace: Montrey, California.

## Chop Sticks 筷子

## Swimmers Make Big Showing in State Mee

By: Stephen Passman

The "SSCOLA" swim team, led by coaches Mrs. Nancy Loftus, Bro. Charles Schilling, and Miss Heather Williams, bounced back in full force from last year's Katrina-induced two-week swim season. With 23 Rock swimmers and 9 Crescent swimmers, the "SSCOLA" team had a fantastic season, winning 5 swim meets, also placing 5th for the boys and 7th for the girls at the South Swim Meet. SSCOLA's presence was known when the swim team brought ten Rock-a-Chaws and five Crescents to the State Championship in Laurel, MS, overall placing 10th out of the 27 scoring teams.

The leading swimmers in South State were Sherman Necaise, placing 4th in the Fifty Free event and 5th in the Butterfly; T.J. Haas, placing 3rd in the 500 Free; Chris Necaise, placing 8th in the 100 Free; the Gargiulo brothers, placing 9th and 10th in the 100 Free; and Stephen Passman, placing 10th in Backstroke. The girls also made

**Senior R Bourge races the l terfly in individ medley at state n as the S OLA S team t tenth in state final**

a formidable presence, Alyssa Walter making place in the Breast Stroke 200 Individual Medley C petitions. OLA's medley r *team placed 5th, with M* eline Loftus, Alyssa Wa Nikolina Vaught, and San tha McCleod. Other st swimmers included Nik Vaught in the 50 Free and mantha McCloud in the Free and 100 Backstroke.

Alyssa Walter conqu at the State Competit setting a new state recor 2:08.67, by beating her state record in the 200 I vidual Medley, and finisl second by a touch in the Breaststroke.

Leading the team this were seniors Alyssa Wa Madeleine Loftus, R Bourgeois, Sean Bradf and Stephen Passman– of whom have been on team since at least 8th gr Brother Charles added thoughts about the team ing," I thought we did q well, especially conside everything it took to c back."

# School News

## Power Interviews--The New Faculty

By: Jae Hyung Kim

**Mrs. McGill**

Mrs. McGill doesn't teach, but she works on so many things for St. Stanislaus.She is a counselor for testing, academic issues, emotional issues and student relations.

She moved from Jackson, MS to Bay St. Louis. This is her first year working at SSC.

When I asked "How do you like St. Stanislaus so far?" she clearly answered that she loves this school.

She was born in Louisiana but grew up in Texas. Then Mrs. McGill lived in England for two and a half years because her husband was in the Air Force. She said that it was very fun.

At last, she answered "not really" with a smile when I asked whether she had anything to tell to SSC and OLA students. But she is still in school, working on her Ph.D.

**Miss. Williams**

Miss Williams is part of the new faculty this year. She teaches French classes (French 1, French 2 and French 3), for which she prepared with twenty-four semester hours of college French. Miss Williams wanted to be a mystery writer or a teacher when she was younger. She became a teacher because she likes learning, teaching and people.

She spent a lot of time on the Mississippi Coast at Claremont Harbor with her family, fishing during the summer. She learned about St. Stanislaus by its reputation. She likes this school so far, and she likes St. Stanislaus' environment and interesting students. She thinks that teaching can be challenging.

Miss Williams can speak three languages. She speaks of course English and French and Spanish. She learned French in high school and college, and Spanish in Mexico after she graduated college.

She has been to Canada, England and Costa Rica for travel and Mexico to learn Spanish. She's preparing for ESL classes for next year's international students with Bro. Ronald.

She is also the one of swim team coaches. She said that the swim team is doing well, and we have some very strong and dedicated swimmers from both SSC and OLA, who have demonstrated their talents this year.

When I asked if she had anything to say to our students, she answered that "we live in a world full of diversity and richness and one of our missions in life should be to educate ourselves in ways that raise our awareness of others' life experiences and world views."

**Brian Yoon, Class of 2007**

## Interview with the President

By Stephen Passman

Interview with SSC Student Body President Brian Yoon, Monday, September 18, 2006

What are the issues that were on your platform?

Yoon said in the interview Monday that he wanted to "stop the separation between resident and day students." He emphasized that he wanted the students to "have more power" by having "a major role in deciding issues in the school."

What are you doing to address the issues?

"I talked with Brother Ronald Hingle and Mr. Verlander- about several issues—water bottles, lockers, and improving the college preparation program."

"I'm trying to make more clubs to involve more resident and day students." Some examples he mentioned were photography, international, chess, and entertainment clubs.

What are your plans in the future?

" I want a suggestion box for students to say how to improve school." *Brian Yoon* also mentioned Monday that he wished to have more events in the dormitory.

Yoon concluded with this statement, "I am trying to make the school better. In order to make school better I need the participation of the students."

## Announcement from SSC Student Council

The Student Council has been meeting on Wednesday morning for the past several weeks. We have discussed lockers, water bottles, dances, pep-rallies, SSC-OLA relations, upcoming events, and various other things. However, there is a major issue at hand—school -wide input.

Remember: President Brian Yoon, Vice President Ryan Boutet, other officers, and class and dorm representatives are *your* representatives. We are doing what we can, what we think is best for the school, but this system will not work without the support of the students. If you have an idea, issue, or comment, make sure to tell your representatives.

Student Council is an active body, trying to accomplish the students' interest. Many students leave the ideas up to the Student Council. While this has been the idea in the past, we are trying to improve. So remember: this is *your* student council; it is representing your thoughts, ideas, and concerns. The Student Council is simply the body through which the students' ideas are manifested. Get involved and express your ideas as we strive to improve the school for this year and the following ones.

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# Traditions

## OLA Big Sister/Little Sister Tradition Continues

By: Kathryn McDonald

Not even Hurricane Katrina could stop the long-standing tradition of the Big Sister/Little Sister program at Our Lady Academy. How could OLA decide not to continue the strong tradition of fire hazards, caused by the candles at the formal ceremony, and the amusing outfits the seniors put on their little sisters?

The theme for this year's Big Sister/Little Sister dress-up was "Rednecks." *Freshman Haleigh Treutel,* whose big sisters are Brittany Fournier and Anna Sharp, said that this was her favorite part of the Big Sister/ Little Sister tradition.

Sarah Martinolich, whose big sisters are Amy Gemelli and Jessie Shifalo, was more into "dressing-up" for the formal ceremony rather than costuming as a redneck.

Being a Big Sister provides the opportunity to stand out as a role model for freshmen. Whether it is through giving important advice about certain classes or simply greeting their little sisters in the hallway, big sisters have the great opportunity to guide their little sisters as they embark on their high school careers.

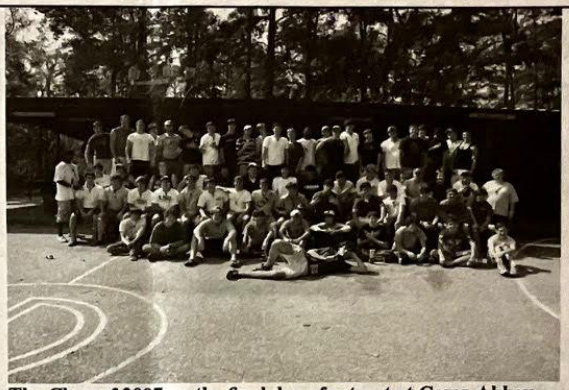
Senior Carolan Crowder, big sister of Liz Carambat, likes the idea of "leaving a legacy behind."

We have come a long way in that time and would like to thank all our customers, old and new, for their *Support & Loyalty.*

*Thanks & Stay Strong BSL!*

SUBWAY IN THE BAY

HERE TO STAY!



**The Class of 2007 on the final day of retreat at Camp Abbey.**

## Seniors Continue the Traditions with Retreat at Camp Abbey

By: Andre Romain

On any given day, it would be extremely odd for me to see a man show his emotions. Perhaps I am just a victim of stereotypes, but nevertheless I wouldn't know what to think or say if I had a friend open up to me. The senior retreat was a chance for me finally to experience that. It was a chance for me to hear my friends' personal troubles and a chance for me to help find solutions to them.

The retreat—which took place right outside Covington, Louisiana at Camp Abbey—was a two day opportunity for the seniors to get away from the troubles and stress that life causes, and be in tune with the serenity of nature and the tranquility that came with having a worry-free mind. The retreat was seen as a break not only from school, but also from our technological lives.

During our two days there, we were given candid stories from a few of our teachers and untold narratives from the lives of our fellow students. We all saw a side of each other that we had never seen before.

Some of the students and teachers got very emotional; the shedding of tears wasn't uncommon. Probably the most touching part of the trip was when we we directly considered our relationships with our family and friends. I was sitting around a few of my friends—some of whom I'd never expect to cry—but, to my surprise, they fell down in tears.

When it was all said and done, we came out as better people. There is also no doubt in anyone's minds that the seniors became closer as a class. While there was minimal separation in the first place, I can now honestly say there are now no sources of division in our class.

**Seniors Derek Creehan (far left) and Reilly Bourgeois (right) pose for a picture with their little brothers, Eduardo la Vega (mid left) and Jack Weinzimmer (mid right), at the reception after the Big Brother-Little Brother ceremony at Our Lady of the Gulf Church on October 5, 2006. Many of the Big/Little brothers began there relationship with dinner after the reception.**

# Student News

## Students Take Advantage of Summer Oppurtunities

By: Stephen Passman

The school doors burst open as students rush out to enjoy their summer vacation. No more school for two and a half months means its time to relax, right? Not for some. During the summer several SSC and OLA students attended many programs that have had a profound impact that will benefit them for years to come, including Governor's School, Rural Medical Scholars Program, and *the EPA Washington Youth* Tour.

Nick Santos and Amy Gemelli attended Governor's School for three weeks, taking college credit classes ranging from Video Effects and Cloning Bioethics to Classical Guitar and Standup Comedy. Nick Santos remarked, "It was the best thing I could have done with my summer." Amy Gemelli also attended Governor's School calling it, "a great experience."

At MSU, Erin Kergosien, Amy Ashley, and Madeleine Loftus went to the five-week Rural Medical Scholars Program, consisting of three college courses, shadowing doctors, visiting patients, and meeting many friends. Participant Erin Kergosein described the "awesome" experience as a "true taste of college life."

Stephen Passman traveled to Washington D.C. this past summer for the Washington Youth Tour sponsored by the EPA, where he stayed in D.C. for a week seeing monuments, visiting Georgetown, listening to speakers, and meeting our country's future leaders. He stated this experience was a "perfect mix of fun and education."

Anyone interested in summer events can contact Mrs. McCollister.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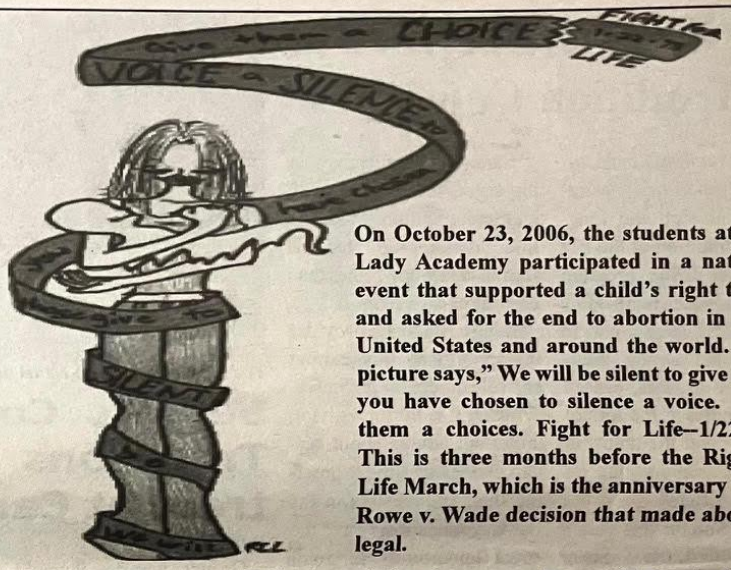


**On October 23, 2006, the students at Our Lady Academy participated in a national event that supported a child's right to life and asked for the end to abortion in these United States and around the world. The picture says," We will be silent to give those you have chosen to silence a voice. Give them a choices. Fight for Life--1/22/73." This is three months before the Right to Life March, which is the anniversary of the Rowe v. Wade decision that made abortion legal.**

## Interview With an Alumnus: Brad Reinhart

By: Sean Bradford

9/24/06--Your high school years will eventually end; so, to get the answers on what to do before and after it ends, I talked to Brad Reinhart, valedictorian of the class of 2006. Brad currently attends Texas A&M and will graduate in the class of 2010 with a degree in the meteorology field.

S.B: Brad, What do you think when you look back on your Saint Stanislaus career?

B.R: I view it as enjoyable overall, and SSC prepared me very well for the rigors of college, especially in math.

S.B: Here's a broad question- How is college?

B.R: Hmm. The school is quite large at 45,000, but I found, much to my surprise, that class size doesn't really matter if the teacher is good. I have 13-18 students in most classes, with my Chemistry class having the most, at 200. But the teacher is so good that class size doesn't hinder him. Another surprise to me was how well I adjusted to independent living. A major part of that has to do with how -friendly the college is.

S.B: And how about the food, at SSC we don't exactly have a buffet line yet.

B.R: I live next to the second largest dining facility in the nation! For one price I can eat what the world has to offer.

S.B: Finally, do you have any tips for our Juniors and Seniors about getting prepared for college life?

B.R: One thing I found out very early on is that it is better to go to sleep at a reasonable time and study early in the morning than to stay up to 1:00 A.M cramming. It really helps being alert when you are trying to study. I had a list of 6-7 schools that I applied to early- before November. Applying early is necessary because you can guarantee that you won't be rejected because all the slots are filled. Visiting colleges is extremely important because -- well, it's hard to explain. I had to choose between A&M and Florida State, and I had a feeling of dislike when I went to FSU, and at A&M I felt very comfortable. Try your best to be a National Merit finalist or semi-finalist, for I have received over thirty grand from that alone. Finally, at college, I can tell who really pushed themselves in high school by taking the most strenuous classes available, and those who took it easy. Taking the hard courses will just make you better prepared for what you will have to face in college, with respect to time management, study skills, and setting your priorities straight.

S.B: Thank you very much for your time Brad.

B.R: My pleasure.

Brad has left some remarkable insight into the path that the senior and junior class will have to travel. He also did a good job advertising for Texas A&M -- it sounds good!

# News

## CNN Comes to OLA for "Hooray for the Bay"

By: Kaitlyn Stovall

On October 28th at 7 P.M., Our Lady Academy hosted its first ever "Hooray for the Bay!" in the Hollywood Casino Ballroom in Bay St. Louis. The event was held to honor Kathleen Koch, CNN correspondent and Bay St. Louis native, for her dedication to keeping the eye of the media on South Mississippi in its recovery efforts.

Kathleen Koch attended Our Lady Academy for her eighth and ninth grade years in the 1970s before transferring to and graduating from Bay High. Her mother taught English at OLA, where her sister graduated. As Mrs. Julie Cranford remembers Kathleen, "she was always very nice and really involved in school." Kathleen later went on to study journalism at USM and became a Rotary Foundation International Graduate Scholar at the University of Dijon in France. Adding to a long list of accomplishments within her journalistic career, Ms. Koch is now a CNN correspondent to the White House in Washington, D.C. In addition to bringing in food and supplies for gutting houses and clearing slabs in the early months after Hurricane Katrina, Ms. Koch has continued to rally support and national awareness for her hometown of Bay St. Louis.

Our Lady Academy's "Hooray for the Bay!" is a little way of saying "thank you" from the community to Ms. Koch for her efforts in helping recovery. "We are delighted to have someone of Ms. Kathleen Koch's caliber and the honoree of our first event," says Mrs. Anna Kalom, Our Lady Academy Director of Development, "It is a wonderful opportunity to express our gratitude to her for helping keep national attention on our area."

"Hooray for the Bay!" was a great success, which comprised dinner and dancing in cocktail attire. "Overall, I was very pleased by the turnout," says Mrs. Kalom, referring to the 300-plus people in attendance of the event, including parents of Our Lady Academy students, businesses of the community, and friends of the school. It is hoped that "Hooray for the Bay!" will develop into an annual fall event.


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## ESPN Films at SSC

By: Ryan Boutet

With a long-standing tradition of excellence, St. Stanislaus was a perfect story for ESPN's halftime festivities during the Army versus Kent State game on September 9th of this year.

ESPN had the goal of making a connection between Felix A. "Doc" Blanchard (pictured below), a 1942 graduate of SSC and 1945 Heisman Trophy winner, and the effects of Hurricane Katrina on SSC.

Doc Blanchard is a prime example of a man of character formed here at SSC. He put forth maximum effort both in the classroom and on the field, and he took his talent to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. There he played at fullback for Army and was known as "Mr. Inside" for his ability to run straight up the middle.

The documentary that aired also talked of the hardships of some of the students and faculty who stayed during the hurricane. ESPN filmed the different stories of some members of the SSC community and the blessing of the athletes at our mass. Those featured on air included: Student Council President Brian Yoon, senior football players Nick Shannon and Andrew Taylor, Coach Rhodes, Brother Eduardo, and Brother Ronald.

The short documentary not only told the tale of one of Stanislaus' most famous alumni, but also showed the perseverance of our school community. It was a proud moment for all those associated with our Stanislaus family and showed the nation that Saint Stanislaus students are men of character.

# Sports

# SSC/OLA Sports Return to Glory in 2006

Senior Taylor Blanche takes the field against Wayne County in his final game as an SSC football player.

## Football Team Gains Respect in the State

By: Matthew Vollenweider

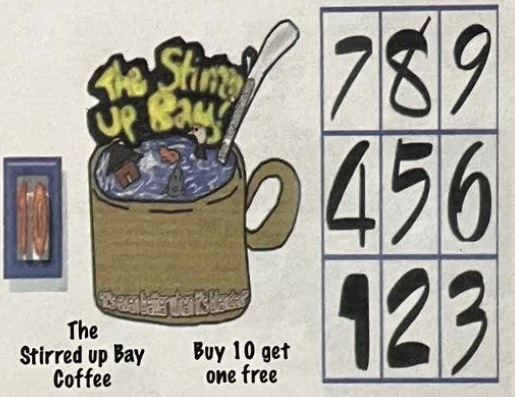
After an interrupted season in 2005, our football team came back strong with a 6-4 regular season and a state playoff berth.

The team made it to the first round of the state playoffs, where they suffered a 53-30 loss to the top-ranked team in the state, Wayne County High School. The good news was that SSC was the first team to score that many points against the War Eagles this season.

"Our football season this year was successful. Our team put forth a tremendous amount of effort and hard work which contributed to the success we had on the field," said senior safety Andrew Taylor.

The football Rock-a-Chaws also gained the title of Crab Trap Bowl Champions for 2006 with the win over rival Bay High. The team marched across town and beat the Tigers 28-6 on their home field.

The team won the respect of many schools across the state by playing their best and competing well against much larger squads. Their perseverance and dedication reminded their opponents that our school is made of men of character. "I was honored to play alongside such dedicated and hard-working teammates," continued Taylor.




## OLA Volleyball Takes Back the State Title

By: Matthew Vollenweider

The Our Lady Academy volleyball team returned to glory this season after winning the State Title. The team won three straight games over Oxford to hold the trophy once again.

Its two seniors, Amanda Meyers and Victoria Romano, led the team throughout the season. They led the team in points; and, when the going got tough, they led the way through.

"Amanda and I are just really excited about getting another state ring in our senior year, which reflects all of the hard work we have put in over the year," said Romano.

The Crescents had an amazing 40-4 record this season, and they had a perfect record in District games. This is the eighth year in a row that OLA has won the District Title.

"It was a really big test this year for us because we lost six seniors last year. If it weren't for our team unity and how well we got along, then we wouldn't have won the State Title," said Meyers.

Senior Sam Maggio prepares to pass an opponent as he races in the State Cross Country meet.